



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-1775

MCO 1650R.35B  
RAC  
15 Oct 93

MARINE CORPS ORDER 1650R.35B

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: CHAMBERS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Ref: (a) MCO P1070.12H

Encl: (1) Biographical Sketch

1. Purpose. To provide information and instructions on the subject award.
2. Cancellation. MCO 1650R.35A.
3. General. The Colonel Justice Marion "Jumping Joe" Chambers Award is presented annually to the Reserve company grade officer within the 4th Marine Division or 4th Force Service Support Group who best demonstrates the outstanding leadership qualities exemplified by Colonel Chambers during World War II. As a reservist in World War II, Colonel Chambers was the recipient of the Medal of Honor for his action as a commander of the 3d Battalion, 25th Marines assault landing team of the 4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima. His citation reads in part, that while "exposed to relentless fire, he coolly reorganized his battle-weary men, inspiring them to heroic efforts by his own valor and leading in an attack on the critical, impregnable high ground." Colonel Chambers' actions reflected his strong dedication to his country and beloved Corps. The award is provided to the Marine Corps Reserve by Colonel Chambers' family. The enclosure is a biographical sketch of Colonel Chambers.
4. Eligibility
  - a. Any Marine company grade officer serving in the Selected Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR) or on Active Duty as a member of the Full-Time Support program, with the 4th Marine Division (4th MarDiv) or 4th Service Support Group (4th FSSG) at the time of nomination is eligible for the Chambers Trophy.
  - b. Successive awards will not be made as the recipient becomes ineligible to be nominated again after receiving the award.
5. Award Criteria
  - a. The officer recommended for the Chambers Award should be recognized by seniors, contemporaries, and subordinates alike as an outstanding leader.

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b. The officer must exhibit leadership qualities that contribute to the development of esprit de corps and loyalty within the unit in which the officer serves.

c. The officer, through personal example, must set professional and personal standards that others seek to emulate.

6. Selection. The recipient will be selected by the Commandant of the Marine Corps (RA).

7. Presentation

a. Presentation will be made at a ceremony held by the Commandant or his designated representative, at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps or other suitable location.

b. The Commanding General, Marine Reserve Force (CG MARRESFOR) will fund and issue temporary active duty orders or temporary additional duty orders as appropriate, with pay and allowances and travel, for a period not to exceed 2 days, to attend the presentation ceremony.

c. A plaque, with the recipient's name inscribed annually, will remain permanently in the possession of Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 25th Marines. The recipient will receive a replica of the permanent plaque to commemorate the award.

8. Action

a. The CG MARRESFOR will establish a board of senior officers to review nominees' records and make appropriate recommendations to CMC.

b. The CG 4th MarDiv and the CG 4th FSSG will nominate a minimum of one officer from each regiment and separate battalion for the award using the eligibility and selection criteria stated below.

c. Nominations, to be submitted by letter, must include a current photograph, taken per the instructions in paragraph 2002 of the reference, the candidate's military and civilian biography, and a summary of performance supporting the nominee's qualifications for the award.

d. Nominations shall be submitted annually to the CG MARRESFOR to arrive not later than 1 November. A copy of each nominee's package shall be forwarded directly to CMC (MMSB) for inclusion in the nominee's official record.

e. The CG MARRESFOR will make appropriate recommendations to CMC (RA) not later than 1 December. CMC (RAC) will provide liaison as sponsor of the subject award.



**S. R. BERKHEISER**  
**By direction**

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHCOLONEL JUSTICE MARION CHAMBERS, USMCR  
(Deceased)

Colonel Justice Marion "Jumping Joe" Chambers was born in Huntington, West Virginia, on 2 February 1908. He attended Marshall College, West Virginia, and George Washington University and received his Juris Doctor from National University.

Following the completion of a 2 year enlistment in the Naval Reserve in 1930, he joined the Marine Corps Reserve as a private and in 1932 was commissioned a second lieutenant. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion in Washington, DC. He was a major, attending annual summer camp in 1940, when his unit was called to active duty.

After rigorous training, he was among the first contingent of Marines to assault the island of Tulagi, Solomon Islands, on 7 August 1942. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received while commanding a company of the 1st Raider Battalion. He received the Silver Star Medal for evacuating the wounded and directing the night defense of a battalion aid station on Tulagi, where he was a seriously wounded patient. He commanded the 3d Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division in the Roi-Namur Campaign. On Saipan he suffered a blast concussion, but returned to lead his command there and on Tinian. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Combat "V" and a second Purple Heart following the Saipan-Tinian operations.

As a lieutenant colonel, he brought his battalion ashore at Iwo Jima on 19 February 1945. His sector was beneath high ground from which heavy enemy fire raked the whole landing beach. Capture of the high ground was essential to the success of the D-Day operation. Lieutenant Colonel Chambers lost more than half his officers and nearly half his enlisted strength on D-Day. By fearless disregard for his own life and leading a depleted battalion by example, he won the key heights that anchored the right flank of the Marines' position. On day four, directing the Marines' first rocket barrage and exposed to the enemy's main line of resistance, Lieutenant Colonel Chambers fell under enemy machine gun fire.

Lieutenant Colonel Chambers was assigned to Quantico following his discharge from Bethesda Naval Hospital. He entered the Senior Course at Quantico as a student and upon graduation was assigned as a member of the Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board. He was medically retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in 1946 and advanced to the grade of Colonel.

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From 1946 to 1964, as a resident of Rockville, Maryland, Colonel Chambers held various public service positions to include: Assistant Chairman of the Federal Personnel Council, Staff Adviser to the Senate Armed Services Committee, an employee of the Civil Defense Administration, and Deputy Director of the Office of Emergency Planning. He was later President of his own consulting firm until his retirement in 1973.

Colonel Chambers received the Nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor, on 1 November 1950. Presentation of the Medal of Honor was made at the White House by President Harry S. Truman for exceptional gallantry which helped assure the victory at Iwo Jima during World War II.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Silver Star Medal, and Legion of Merit with Combat "V", Colonel Chambers' decorations and medals include the Purple Heart with two gold stars, Presidential Unit Citation with three bronze stars, Organized Marine Corps Reserve Medal with two stars, American Defense Medal with one silver star (denoting five campaigns), and the World War II Victory Medal.

Colonel Chambers died at Bethesda Naval Hospital on 29 July 1982. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

ENCLOSURE (1)